

A

# REVIEW

OF THE

# STATE

OF THE

# BRITISH NATION.

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Thursday, June 3. 1708.

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**M**Y last concluded with shewing you the Impossibility of your reaping any Advantage by the Union, without adding Peace to the Union; and to enforce this Assertion.

Shall I be plain, and lead you back a little by the Hand, to see the Want of this Temper? What Objections any have made against the Union in either Kingdom, I have nothing to say to here, nor why they made them; But has there been no Imprudence in the Manner, no Extreams in your Aversions to the Union, and particularly in the Expressions of it in Publick?

I speak it without boasting, no Man

has concern'd himself more than the Author of this Paper, to clear up the Suspicion entertained among us in England of the Presbyterians in Scotland joining with the French, and falling in with the Jacobite Interest; But shall I say, Gentlemen, calmly, the Warmth of some People in declaring themselves even on the News of the French Preparations, too much assisted their Enemies to raise that Scandal on them? Yes, and too much encourag'd the French to expect it would be true; To what other Purpose could it tend, and what a Handle did they thereby give their Enemies to attack them; how much discouragement

courage their Friends in their Expectations from them, and weaken their Hands in helping?

Shall I go further, did not these imprudent Excursions help to bring forward the unhappy Difficulty of Imposing the Oaths they complain of? Did not this help to make those Affluences seem needful, even to those who had no mind to put Hardships upon them, and give Pretence to those that had?

*Abroad.* These were the common Arguments about Scotland; (1.) The Episcopal and Jacobite Party, they are ready to close with the *French*; and, (2.) As for the Presbyterian Party, they are so generally surfeited with, and disgusted at the Union, that they will come in only to get the Union dissolved, or at least will stand Neuter.

This was the Language both of Friends and Enemies: It was the Language of our Enemies, as they made use of it to prompt the *French* King to the Attempt, to discourage the *English* in their Opposition, and to blow up the vain Hope of their Party in *England* to assist in their Destruction; and it was the Language of our Friends, as it was the Effect of their Fears for us, the Report having been universal, and no Body contradicting it.

I can but touch these things here, perhaps I may speak more largely to them again; I wish they were heartily consider'd among us all, not to accuse one another, and recriminate upon one another, but to correct every Man for himself, whatever Share he has had in it.

And let us come now to our present State. The *French* have been at our Doors, GOD had brought the Nation upon us threatned in the 28 Deut. 50, 51. *A Nation from a far Country, of a fierce Countenance, and who would not regard the Person of the Old, nor show Favour to the Young, that should eat the Fruit of our Cattel, and the Fruit of our Land, and should leave us neither Corn nor Wine, nor Oil, until he had destroy'd us.* But he has had Compassion upon us, and saved us from our Fears, and the Storm is blown over; the black Cloud hovered over us, — but the Thunder brake not upon us.

Some have promised themselves, that as the *French* have done us no Harm, they have done us a great deal of Good, and rationally speaking, one would think it should be so.

Could you but realize the Dangers you have escaped, could you but form Ideas of the Operation of this dreadful Physick, had it been administred, methinks it must have an Influence upon your Judgments, your Wishes, and your Practice.

Do but fancy the *French* landed at *Leith*, with a superior Force to what you had there to resist them; imagine the Earl of *Leven* retreated with the little Army you had there towards *Berwick*, as in the Prudence of a General he might be supposed to do.

Imagine then *Edinburgh* surrendered to the *French*, which I presume no Man will pretend to suppose could be avoided; nay, perhaps they would have been obliged to have entreated the *French* to take Possession to protect them from

from worse indwelling Enemies, and more terrible Rabble.

When the *French* were in Possession, you could not have expected less from them than such things as these ;

1<sup>st</sup>. That they should summon the the Magistrates together, and oblige them to proclaim their new Pretender.

2<sup>dly</sup>. That they should then summon the Inhabitants to swear Allegiance to him, and perhaps renounce the Revolution and Succession as an Equivalent for the Abjuration.

3<sup>dly</sup>. Make Proclamation, that all that were fled or absconded should return to their Habitation, on Pain of Confiscation of Goods, &c.

Less than this I am perswaded, no Man can imagine Rational, that knows any thing of National Revolutions ; what Rillings and Exactions of Contributions might be added, I do not enquire.

Upon this new Oath,—what Sacrifices would have been made, what Martyrdoms suffered, what Inundation of *Highlanders*, what Rabbling, what Plunder, and what Blood, I refer to your sedate Thoughts to reflect on ; and I shall tell you presently what Use I make of all this. Well, this Scene of Danger is over, behold another !

Now we are come to choosing a new *British* Parliament, a Crisis which this Nation never met with before ; and

shall I confess now, for I would be impartial, that I think the Union will do us some Harm here ; I mean, by infecting *Scotland* with the horrid Briberies, Partialities, Envyings, and Party-making practised too much in *England*, and which honest Men have struggled, both in Parliament and out of Parliament, to restrain.

I cannot but mention it as a thing melancholly enough, to see the Gentlemen and Noblemen of *Britain* making a perfect War among themselves, to obtain an Employment of Peace ; a War of Families, and a War of Interests ; what Strife, what Contention, what Envy, Siding, and Party-making, to get into a Station, which their Country ought to hire them to discharge.

What can the Meaning of this be, Gentlemen, That People should spend their Money, give Bribes and Rewards, and be at Expence to sit in a Place, where they cannot get one Great honestly by sitting ? There must be something more in this than is known ; this must be some Figure in Politicks, like a *Meosis* in Speech, in which there is more signified than is expressed—; And what shall we say to *Andrew Marvel's* old Proverb, that *he that Buys must Sell*. I will not explain it as looking so here ; but his Meaning he explain'd publicly to be, That he that would buy the Country to choose him, would sell the Country when they had chosen him : Nay he went further, he said they MUST do so, that is, to get their Money again. It is indeed an unaccountable thing, that a Man should spend a thousand